



September 6, 2006

Dear Community Friends;

Back to School Safety Tips

(The following is from a Seattle Police news release from September 1st, 2006.) The Seattle Police Department would like to remind drivers and pedestrians to be extra careful as the new school year starts. We are asking students to be extra cautious when walking to and from school. Here are a few tips:

- Pay special attention to all traffic signals and crossing guards
- Never cross the street against a red light, even if you don't see any traffic coming
- Wear reflective clothing and bright colors so drivers can see you easier
- Plan a safe walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and if possible, with intersections that have traffic controls
- Advise children to arrive early for buses, stay out of the street, and to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street

Drivers also need to be very aware that school is back in session and children will be walking to and from schools and bus stops. As autumn approaches, there will be less daylight and children will be out early in the morning and more difficult to see.

- Be watchful around schools and bus stops for children running into the street
- Watch for children entering the street from behind buses or running to catch the bus
- When driving your children to school, deliver and pick them up as close to the school as possible. Don't leave until they are safely on school grounds
- Drive slowly when approaching children riding bicycles and walking near the street.
- Watch your speed when entering school zones.

The Seattle Police Department wishes everyone a safe school year.

Things To Be Aware Of

We've had reports of small groups of teen males who would go door-to-door in a particular neighborhood

and ask residents if there were any odd jobs they could do. While polite and well groomed, these young men used the cover of offering to do odd jobs as a way to case the residence or steal a purse or keys that were left by the front door.

We've also seen the ploy of youth going door-to-door asking residents if they had seen the youth's lost puppy. While perfectly plausible, this ploy has been used to gain access to people's homes and when the resident's back was turned, the individual(s) went through a purse, and took keys and/or other items.

When a stranger comes to your door, for whatever reason, you do not have to let them in. Talk to them through the door. If the reason they are at the door seems unusual or suspicious to you, let neighbors know so they can be aware and watchful of their activity as well. Call 911 and let the operator know that though the situation is not an emergency, it seems suspicious to you and you wanted to make a report.

Second, don't leave your purse, briefcase, keys or wallet within easy reach of the front door or on a table next to an open window.

Now That School Is Back In Session . . .

If you see groups of youth just hanging out during the day, going door-to-door, looking into peoples homes or yards... you may want to say something to your neighbors and police at that time, rather than have your neighbor come over and tell you that they were burglarized some time that day, and then *you* have to tell them that you saw some kids but didn't think anything about it. Remember, the youth are supposed to be in school, not going into Mrs. Austin's back yard.

Until Next Time, Take Care And Stay Safe!

Mark Solomon, South Precinct Crime Prevention



PICNIC at the PRECINCT

For

Southeast Seattle Neighborhoods

Saturday, September 16, 2006

1:00 - 4:00 pm

@ the South Precinct - 3001 S Myrtle ST

Get a precinct tour and meet your local police officers, SWAT, K-9, Bomb Squad and Mounted Officers!

Fun for the whole family! Great food, magician, balloonist, bouncy machine, music & dance groups!

Win SPD memorabilia, and great prizes and gift certificates from neighborhood businesses!

Please Join Us!